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Department of Agriculture

Office of Information

Selected Speeches and News Releases

December 21 - December 28, 1989

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

USDA PREPARES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS OF GUATEMALA MEDFLY PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has prepared for public comment a draft environmental analysis of the Guatemala Mediterranean Fruit Fly Program and will hold a public meeting to encourage public involvement in the development of a final draft.

"The environmental analysis reviews three alternatives to deal with the Medfly in Guatemala," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "Our preferred option, eradication, would use proven control technologies in a systems approach to ensure that the most environmentally sound methods are used."

According to Glosser, the major issues addressed in the environmental analysis include the impact of the three alternatives on the biological environment, including target and nontarget species; the physical environment, including soil, and water and air quality; and the human environment, especially health, safety, culture and economy.

The draft environmental analysis incorporates a draft economic analysis, which is also available for public review. Interested parties may appear in person, by attorney, or other representative.

The public meeting will be held here on Jan. 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Jefferson Auditorium, of USDA's South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W. Persons who wish to speak should register between 8 and 9 a.m.

The notice of availability and public meeting will be published in the Dec. 22 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Feb. 20. An original and three copies of written comments referring to Docket No. 89-208 should be sent to Michael T. Werner, deputy director, Environmental Analysis and Documentation, BBEP, APHIS, USDA, Room 828, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Copies of the environmental analysis may be obtained by writing to Michael T. Werner at the Hyattsville address listed above.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Room 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Janna Evans (301) 436-7251

#

NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS YIELD $362 MILLION TO STATES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—Forty-one states and Puerto Rico will receive more than $362 million in national forest receipts for fiscal 1989, F. Dale Robertson, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, announced today.

On Sept. 28, USDA made interim payments of $248 million to states based on estimated national forest revenues for the year. A final payment of $113 million, based on actual receipts collected during the year, is being paid today, Robertson said.

Actual fiscal 1989 receipts collected from the sale and use of national forest resources totaled $1.44 billion.

By law, 25 percent of the revenues collected by USDA's Forest Service from the use of national forest system lands and resources are returned to the states where the lands are located. The states are required to use the funds for schools and roads. Robertson said the funds are collected primarily from timber sales, grazing, recreation and minerals extraction on 191 million acres of national forest system lands.

These payments do not include 25 percent of the 1989 national grassland revenues. Those payments are based on calendar year 1989 receipts and will be made in March 1990.

The three states receiving the largest payments are: Oregon, $164 million; California, $67 million; and Washington, $47 million.

State	Total Payment	Actual Interim Payment Made Sept. 28	Final Payment
Alabama	$ 1,603,818.56	$ 1,060,687.51	$ 543,131.05
Alaska	5,106,024,54	3,209,550.01	1,896,474.53
Arizona	7,187,021.85	5,339,424.70	1,847,597.15
Arkansas	8,330,793.27	6,175,725.47	2,155,067.80
California	66,992,359.15	39,433,723.60	27,558,635.55
Colorado	3,457,409.89	2,250,639.40	1,206,770.49
Florida	2,326,524.95	1,640,250.02	686,274.93
Georgia	865,773.51	560,437.53	305,335.98
Idaho	12,329,923.02	7,637,996.84	4,691,926.18
Illinois	38,084.29	26,184.38	11,899.91
Indiana	79,352.29	51,927.76	27,424.53
Kentucky	396.850.80	278,622.50	118,228.30
Louisiana	2,649,970.79	1,970,137.50	679,833.29
Maine	36,555.76	29,825.08	6,730.68
Michigan	2,056,776.17	1,624,500.04	432,276.13
Minnesota	1,974,586.03	1,436,598.77	537,987.26
Mississippi	4,465,600.68	2,622,089.65	1,843,511.03
Missouri	2,631,647.52	1,882,425.05	749,222.47
Montana	7,581,897.36	5,447,356.14	2,134,541.22
Nebraska	40,872.49	29,803.13	11,069.36
Nevada	379,525.76	277,024.21	102,501.55
New Hampshire	535,043.49	433,674.99	101,368.50
New Mexico	2,364,789.30	1,616,053.43	748,735.87
New York	19,455.00	16,462.51	2,992.49
North Carolina	832,930.66	583,535.95	249,394.71
North Dakota	76.70	51.17	25.53
Ohio	171,535.62	149,193.77	22,341.85
Oklahoma	1,200,794.91	916,848.31	283,946.60
Oregon	164,154,709.67	117,816,084.92	46,338,624.75
Pennsylvania	3,688,428.18	2,807,722.13	880,706.05
South Carolina	2,331,701.06	1,556,751.21	774,949.85
South Dakota	1,697,373.93	1,038,812.45	658,561.48
Tennessee	437,450.31	273,832.03	163,618.28
Texas	2,015,482.46	1,656,916.70	358,565.76
Utah	1,323,148.54	815,849.75	507,298.79

Vermont	177,831.31	154,612.55	23,218.76
Virginia	425,027.70	287,924.06	137,103.64
Washington	47,209,585.66	33,520,835.91	13,688,749.75
West Virginia	801,053.74	575,927.09	225,126.65
Wisconsin	767,346.33	524,002.51	243,343.82
Wyoming	1,490,689.79	940,162.70	550,527.09
Puerto Rico	15,425.08	12,568.80	2,856.28
Total	$362,191,248.12	$ 248,682,752.23	$113,508,495.89

Don Hansen (202) 475-3787

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Dec. 22, through midnight Thursday, Dec. 28.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Dec. 21, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price		
Northern Europe Price		77.06
Adjustments:		
Average U.S. spot market location	12.60	
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.20	
Average U.S. location	0.39	
Sum of Adjustments		-15.19
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE		61.87 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment		
Northern Europe Price		77.06
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price		-73.50
		3.56
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton		-4.75
		-1.19
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT		0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday Dec. 28.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#

PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR IRAQ AND MEXICO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the following activity:

—Export sales of 110,000 metric tons of hard red winter wheat for delivery to Iraq during the 1989-90 marketing year; and

—Export sales of 110,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to Mexico during 1989-90.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1 and for corn began Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export

sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

#

FGIS RECALIBRATES NMRS FOR MEASURING OIL CONTENT IN SUNFLOWER SEED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today recalibrated official nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) instruments used to determine oil content in sunflower seed.

A technical review of the updated calibration indicates that the effect will be an 0.28 percent increase on average in the reported oil content of sunflower seeds when calculated on a 10 percent moisture basis.

The NMRs were last recalibrated in February 1989 because of changes in sunflower seeds resulting from the 1988 drought. At that time, FGIS indicated that a complete review of the calibration procedure would be conducted, and, if necessary, a revised calibration and control process would be implemented.

Future calibrations will be based on 5 year data average, and generally will be implemented on or about Sept. 1, prior to the harvest of sunflower seed in the United States. In some instances, calibration adjustments may be necessary after the beginning of harvest.

Notice of this action was published today in the Federal Register. For more information, contact Paul Marsden, USDA, FGIS, P.O. Box 96454, Room 0628-S, Washaington, D.C. 20090-6454; telephone (202) 475-3428.

#

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY REPORTED AMONG ANIMAL PARASITES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—It's likely that the parasite, Neospora caninum, has been singlehandedly aborting fetal calves, paralyzing dogs and damaging the nerves of many other animals for years.

But it looks and behaves so much like another single-celled parasite that

no one recognized it as a new species until a U.S. Department of Agriculture parasite specialist took a closer look.

Jitender P. Dubey of USDA's Agricultural Research Service has verified the new parasite in tissues of cattle and sheep from Australia, England, France, Canada and the United States in the year and a half since he first identified it in dog tissues.

On combating the parasite, he said, infected mice have so far responded best to sulfadiazine, a drug used to treat the look-a-like parasite, Toxoplasmosis gondii.

"Mice get sick but not paralyzed," he said. "They become paralyzed, however, when we give them less of the drug."

He said the verification of Neospora was done using the only diagnostic test for the parasite that is now available. It was developed by David S. Lindsay, a former colleague of Dubey's at ARS' Beltsville, Md., research center.

Lindsay's test and Dubey's work to diagnose and treat the disease could benefit pet owners as well as livestock producers, said Robert R. Oltjen, ARS associate deputy administrator for animal science.

Dubey examined tissues, from a Boston animal hospital, of 23 dogs thought to have died from an infection with the Toxoplasma parasite over the last 40 years. Ten of the 23 dogs were actually infected with Neospora.

He said Neospora causes more severe symptoms than Toxoplasma in dogs. Pups infected before birth develop paralysis, particularly in the hind legs. "We think it infects the roots of nerves" in the spine, he said.

It's still too early to gauge Neospora's economic impact on livestock production, he said, noting that Toxoplasma is responsible for most of the abortions in U.S. sheep and goat herds. He said his laboratory tests show that Neospora, like Toxoplasma, can be passed from mother to fetus through the placenta.

"We don't yet know Neospora's life cycle," he said, referring to how the parasite is transmitted in nature.

Judging by its similarity to Toxoplasma and Sarcocystis—another protozoan parasite that causes serious economic losses in cattle—Neospora is probably a member of the same group—coccidia. "But we don't know that yet," Dubey said.

Judy McBride (301) 344-4095

#

COMPUTERS TRANSFER THREE-QUARTERS OF USDA'S COTTON CLASSING DATA IN 1989

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26—The U.S. Department of Agriculture electronically transmitted more than three-quarters of its cotton classing data in 1989, according to a USDA official.

"The new computerized system has allowed us to streamline the way we report classing information to cotton growers and their marketing agents," said Dan Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. "This year we transferred information on nearly 9 million bales, a new high in the expanding use of electronically disseminated cotton quality information."

USDA's cotton classing services measure cotton qualities such as fiber length, thickness, strength, as well as grade overall properties such as percent of foreign matter (trash) and color in a bale. They are funded by user fees paid by cotton growers.

"The speed of electronic dissemination accounts for much of its growing popularity," said Haley. "Cotton markets can be very volatile, and the few days that the postal service takes to return the grower's class cards can make a difference when the market is moving rapidly."

Through electronic transfer, the grower's agent can obtain the class on a bale of cotton the instant it is classed.

Another reason for the rising popularity of electronic dissemination is the enhanced efficiency of entering classing data. In the past, grower marketing agents employed data entry operators solely to input classing data into their computers. Direct electronic transfer has resulted in a real cost and time savings, Haley says.

The agency offers electronic transfer of classing data in two forms, Haley said. The first involves direct computer-to-computer links between the agency's computers and the grower agent's equipment by telecommunications. In 1989, an estimated 294 cotton gins were using this method to retrieve classing information for their grower customers on four million bales of cotton.

The second method uses computer tapes or diskettes that are usually picked up daily at the classing office by the grower agents. Data on 5 million bales will be transferred this way during the 1989 season.

Further information about electronic dissemination of cotton classing data can be obtained from Elvis Morris, AMS, USDA, Cotton Division,

4841 Summer Avenue, Memphis, Tenn. 38122; telephone (901) 766-2921.

Lauren Kazlow (202)447-8998

#

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26—Acting Secretary of Agriculture Roland R. Vautour today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

—long grain whole kernels, 9.76 cents per pound;
—medium grain whole kernels, 9.06 cents per pound;
—short grain whole kernels, 8.94 cents per pound;
—broken kernels, 4.88 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

—long grain, $6.03 per hundredweight;
—medium grain, $5.64 per hundredweight;
—short grain, $5.43 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Jan. 2, 1990, at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

#

PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR SPAIN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 180,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to Spain during the 1989-90 marketing year.

The marketing year for corn began Sept. 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM, eastern time on the next business day following the sale.

Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas McDonald (202) 447-3273

#

DEAD WEED MEANS DEAD SLUGS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27—Attacks on quackgrass, one of the world's most persistent weeds, carry a double whammy: when the weed dies, it eventually takes slimy, crop-damaging slugs with it.

"Killed quackgrass releases a compound into the soil that is a nerve poison highly specific to slugs," said Roger D. Hagin, a U.S. Department of Agriculture weed scientist. "The poison is highly specific to slugs. It has been tested with no ill effects on three species of freshwater snails, as well as mammals in general."

Hagin has successfully isolated and synthesized the compound. Applications are under way for a patent on the material, which someday may be produced commercially as a lethal bait for slugs, he said. The compound is not found in living quackgrass.

Commercial compounds are available to kill slugs, but those now on the market are toxic to birds and animals, he said. He said his treatment would be applied at much lower rates and would be less expensive to use.

He field-tested the compound for two years in snapbeans, alfalfa and other crops. Snapbean yields were nearly doubled as a result of reduced slug damage, according to Hagin, who works at the Plant Protection Research Unit operated by USDA's Agricultural Research Service at Ithaca, N.Y.

Quackgrass is a very strong competitor for fertilizer and water in crops such as corn, soybeans and forages, Hagin said.

"Most of the crops that grow in temperate regions have problems with quackgrass," he said. "Cattle will graze it fairly well, but there are other things you'd rather have them eat."

Hagin said slugs are especially troublesome in humid areas and have taken a heavy toll in West Coast strawberry fields and citrus orchards. They interfere with corn production on the East Coast.

Slugs are a serious problem in no-till or minimum tillage farming, where the soil is not cultivated heavily, he said.

"We're currently looking at the possibility of using the slug-poison compound as a seed treatment in minimum-tillage situations," Hagin said. "We might be able to get the crop plants to take this material up as a defense against slug attacks."

Hagin accidentally discovered the quackgrass-slug connection in 1981.

"I was growing no-till corn in a field that had previously been producing red clover," he recalled. "I'd used herbicides to get rid of the weeds before I planted my corn.

"When the corn was about six inches tall, I noticed that slugs were attacking it heavily. But there were little islands in the field where quackgrass had been growing with the clover, and in those areas the slugs weren't attacking the corn at all."

Quackgrass is known to leave two chemical compounds behind in the soil that inhibit the growth of certain other plants. Scientists call this chemical warfare between plants "allelopathy."

Hagin said the weeds' two allelopathic compounds are different from the compound that kills slugs.

Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-4089

#

USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR NOVEMBER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27—Here is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for November 1989:

Cost of food at home for a week in November

	Food plans (In Dollars)			
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate cost	Liberal
Families:				
Family of 2 (20-50 years)	45.30	57.10	70.40	87.30
Family of 2 (51 years and over)	42.80	54.70	67.40	80.60
Family of 4 with preschool children	65.90	82.20	100.40	123.10
Family of 4 with elementary schoolchildren	75.40	96.50	120.60	145.20
Individuals in four-person families:				
Children:				
1-2 years	11.90	14.50	16.90	20.40
3-5 years	12.80	15.80	19.50	23.30
6-8 years	15.60	20.90	26.10	30.50
9-11 years	18.60	23.70	30.50	35.30
Females:				
12-19 years	19.50	23.30	28.30	34.20
20-50 years	19.60	24.30	29.50	37.70
51 and over	19.30	23.50	29.10	34.70
Males:				
12-14 years	19.50	26.90	33.60	39.40
15-19 years	20.20	27.80	34.50	40.00
20-50 years	21.60	27.60	34.50	41.70
51 and over	19.60	26.20	32.20	38.60

USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans—thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal.

Dr. James T. Heimbach, acting administrator of HNIS, said the plans consist of foods that provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

In computing the costs, USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and prepared at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods, and other nonfood items bought at the store.

"USDA costs are only guides to spending," Heimbach said. "Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes, and how much food is prepared at home.

"Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable," he said. "The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families who have tighter budgets. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan."

To use the chart to estimate your family's food costs:

—For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home—use the amounts shown in the chart.

—For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent from the amount shown for each meal not eaten at home. Thus, for a person eating lunch out 5 days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

—For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart are for individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the "individual" figures and make these adjustments, because larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones:

—For a one-person family, add 20 percent.

—For a two-person family, add 10 percent.

—For a three-person family, add 5 percent.

—For a fiveor six-person family, subtract 5 percent.

—For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

Details of the four family food plans are available from the Nutrition Education Division, HNIS, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Johna Pierce (301) 436-8617

#

THIS WEEK'S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS UNCHANGED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27—Producers may repay their 1988 and 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound

	1989-crop	1988-crop
Table		
White	40.0	40.0
Extra-light Amber	37.0	37.0
Light Amber	36.0	36.0
Amber	35.0	34.0
Nontable	33.0	33.0

The levels are unchanged from those announced April 20, 1989.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying xcd4/d02d4d their 1988 or 1989 honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

Contacts: Jane K. Phillips (202) 447-7601 8:00 am-4:30 pm EST

John C. Ryan (202) 447-8207 4:30 pm-5:30 pm EST

#

OLDER WOMEN MAY NEED MORE VITAMIN D THAN RECOMMENDED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28—The Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) for vitamin D may be too low to protect older women from losing bone calcium after the dark days of winter, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture study reported today in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The study of 333 post-menopausal women found that those who consumed at least 10 percent more vitamin D than the RDA did not have

the seasonal see-saw of hormones that regulate blood calcium levels, said principal investigator Elizabeth Krall. The RDA is 200 international units (IU) daily after age 21.

Vitamin D aids the body in absorbing calcium. An inadequate intake during the sun-starved days of winter, when the human skin produces little or no vitamin D, can mean less calcium for the bones, Krall explained. As vitamin D levels dip, another hormone rises to help maintain a constant blood calcium level, probably by "borrowing" calcium from the bones.

"We think that if the seasonal patterns disappear, the vitamin intake is adequate," she said, noting the paucity of data for healthy older people.

Krall and colleagues at the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston estimated the women's vitamin D intake from their own recall of the foods and supplements they ingested. She said the findings need to be validated through further studies before a specific amount can be recommended for elderly women.

A more pressing issue is the fact that many women don't even come close to getting the RDA. Vitamin D intakes in this study ranged from zero to nearly 1,700 IU. But the average intake was only 112 IU—slightly more than half the RDA. Neither the USDA nor the National Center for Health Statistics gathers vitamin D intake data because the skin also produces it.

"Vitamin D inadequacy may be more widespread in the healthy population than recognized," said Krall, whose work funded by USDA's Agricultural Research Service. "The signs of inadequacy are not well defined."

For instance, in normal, healthy people blood levels of the major circulating form of vitamin D vary sixto seven-fold because of the wide range of dietary intakes and seasonal fluctuations. This form of vitamin D is the precursor to its active, or hormone, form.

"The RDA has a built-in safety margin to cover most Americans," she said, "but it is based primarily on studies of younger people." The women in this study averaged 58 years old, were generally healthy and had no problems that might reduce vitamin and mineral absorption.

"Still," she said, "it appears older women need at least 220 IU. You would suspect that people with absorption difficulties or kidney disease or older people, who have less capacity to absorb and manufacture vitamin D, would need to have even higher levels."

Fatty fish, such as herring, salmon and sardines, are the richest sources of vitamin D. A quart of milk has twice the RDA.

"As observed in other studies, the women's vitamin D levels peaked during late summer and early fall and hit their lowest levels in late winter and early spring, when the summer reserve was depleted," Krall said. At the same time, blood levels of PTH, the hormone thought to raise blood calcium by pulling it from the bones, were at their highest.

All 333 women in this study were Caucasian—the group with the highest incidence of osteoporosis—and lived in or around Boston.

People living closer to the south would be expected to manufacture more vitamin D during the winter than Bostonians, Krall said. But there's some evidence that vitamin levels vary with season even in more southerly locations.

Judy McBride (301) 344-4095

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Media Advisory:

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

MEDIA ADVISORY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report will be released at 3 p.m., EST, on the following dates in 1990: Jan. 11, Feb. 9, March 9, April 10, May 10, June 12, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 12, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, and Dec. 11. These dates coincide with release of the Crop Production report by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

To purchase a single or multiyear subscription to the WASDE report, call 1-800-999-6779 or write to ERS-NASS, P.O. 1608, Rockville, Md. 20850. Multiyear subscribers will receive a free copy of Major World Crop Areas and Climatic Profiles (Agricultural Handbook-664), which includes production maps, climatic patterns and crop statistics for key U.S. and foreign growing areas. This monograph may be ordered separately from the same address.

Subscriptions (single-year only) also are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (202-783-3238).

Raymond Bridge (202) 447-5447.

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